



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held January 16, 2007, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“For a child, few tragedies are greater than the loss of a parent. Yet when previously adopted children reenter the foster care system due to an adoption disruption or the death or incapacitation of an adoptive parent, current law prohibits these children from the same opportunities available to all foster children, which is to reconnect with members of their birth families.

“In order to reduce the number of children in long-term foster care, child welfare agencies Nationwide are establishing programs through which a child’s entire case record is reviewed to locate and reinvolve relatives and other nonrelated individuals from the child’s past. Los Angeles County’s Permanency Partners Program (P3) has been very successful in achieving permanency for foster children by connecting them with adults whom they previously knew. For adoptees, although counties are permitted to petition the court to review their family records, when the review reveals a birth family member or relative whose current situation or ability to care for the child has improved over time, California Family Law Code 9201 prohibits the sharing of this essential information in order to reinvolve the child with this individual. As a result, previously adopted children are more likely to languish in foster care for the rest of their childhood years and emancipate from foster care without permanency or a connection to a committed adult.”

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Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried, the Director of Children and Family Services and the Chief Administrative Officer were directed to work with the State Legislative Delegation and County Welfare Directors Association, to sponsor legislation in the 2007-08 State Legislative Session to allow for the disclosure of identifying information regarding a previously adopted child to an approved potential adoptive parent, or other caretaker from his/her birth family, for the purpose of attaining permanency or adult connection for the child.

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Copies distributed:

- Each Supervisor
- Chief Administrative Officer
- County Counsel
- Director of Children and Family Services
- Director of Public Social Services